

Intimations.

Opium Farmers,
Hongkong, 25th January, 1898.

Today's
Advertisements.VICTORIA CHAPTER,
No. 515, E.C.A REGULAR CONVOCACTION of the
above CHAPTER will be held in the
FARMERS' HALL, Zealand Street, TO-
MORROW, the 28th instant, at 8.30 for 9 p.m.
precisely. Visiting Companions are cordially
invited to attend.
Hongkong, 28th January, 1898. [150]

NOTICE.

THE Underigned has established himself as
GENERAL MERCHANT and COM-
MISSION AGENT, under the style of FIRM
name of M. A. DE SOUZA & CO.
M. A. DE SOUZA.
Hongkong, 1st January, 1898. [183]CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY,
LIMITED.

FOR SHANGHAI.

"SINGAN,"
Captain Jamieson, will be despatched as above
TO-MORROW, the 29th instant, at 5 p.m.
For Freight or Passage, apply to
BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents.
Hongkong, 28th January, 1898. [184]INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION
COMPANY, LIMITED.FOR SINGAPORE, SAMARANG AND
SOERABAYA.THE Company's Steamship
"ONSANG,"
Captain J. Young, will be despatched as above
on TUESDAY, the 1st February, at Noon,
instead of as previously advertised.
For Freight or Passage, apply to
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Managers.
Hongkong, 28th January, 1898. [163]FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND
CALCUTTA.THE Steamship
"CATHERINE APCAR,"
Captain E. Fay, will be despatched for the
above Ports on THURSDAY, the 3rd February,
at 3 p.m.
For Freight or Passage, apply to
DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 28th January, 1898. [174]


NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamship
"BORNEO,"
Consignees of Cargo by the above-named
vessel are hereby informed that their Goods are
being landed and placed at their risk in the
Godowns and Kowloon Wharf and Godown
Company's Godown, at Kowloon, where each
consignment will be sorted-out mark by mark
and delivery can be obtained as soon as the
Goods are landed.
From Italy, via S.S. *Suffol*.
Optional Goods will be landed here unless
instructions are given to the contrary before 4
P.M. TO-DAY.
Goods not cleared by the 3rd February at 4
P.M. will be subject to rent.
No Fire Insurance will be effected by me in any
case whatever.
All damaged Packages must be left in the
Godown and a certificate of the damage
obtained from the Godown Company within ten
days after the Vessel's arrival here, after which
no Claims will be recognised.
H. A. RITCHIE,
Superintendent.
Hongkong, 28th January, 1898. [5 & 7]

Intimations.

DAKIN, CRICKSHANK &
COMPANY,
VICTORIA DISPENSARY,
HONGKONG.

AERATED WATERS.

SIMPLE AERATED WATER.
SODA WATER.
LEMONADE.
GINGER ALE.
SARSAPARILLA.
RASPBERRYADE, &c.DAKIN, CRICKSHANK & Co.'s WATERS are
made under the constant supervision of a duly
qualified English Chemist and will bear com-
parison with the best English Manufactures.
Special terms to HOTELS, CLUBS, MEETINGS and
other Large Consumers.
Any complaints should be addressed to the
Manager.
Hongkong, 1st March, 1897. [30]


KANANGA
OF JAPAN
(REGISTERED)
RIGAUD & Co
PARIS

Kananga Water is the most deli-
cious and refreshing
Tonic Water. It renders the skin firm, relieves
mosquito bites and imparts a delicate fra-
grance and feeling of comfort and freshness.

New Generations in Perfumery
RIGAUD'S KANANGA EXTRACT
RIGAUD'S WHITE ROSE
RIGAUD'S MELATI EXTRACT
RIGAUD'S IKORA D'AFRIQUE EXTRACT
RIGAUD'S LILY OF THE VALLEY EXTRACT
RIGAUD'S YLANGYLANG EXTRACT
RIGAUD'S BANTAM EXTRACT
RIGAUD'S JASMINE or Chamelle EXTRACT
8, RUE VIVIENNE, 8, PARIS

Intimation.

A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

WINES & SPIRITS.

ALL these are selected by our London
House, bought direct at first hand, imported in
wood and bottled by ourselves, thus saving all
intermediate profits, and enabling us to supply
the best growths at MODERATE PRICES.PRICE LISTS, with Full Details, to be had on
Application.PORT after removal should be rested a month
before use. When required for drinking at
once it should be ordered to be decanted at
the Dispensary before being sent out.SHERRY—Excellent Dinner and After Dinner
Wines of very superior Vintages. All are
true Xeres Wines.
CLARET—Our Clarets, including the lowest
priced, are guaranteed to be the genuine
product of the juice of the grape and are
not artificially made from raisins and
currants, as is generally the case with Cheap
Wines.BRANDY—All our Brandy is guaranteed to
be pure Cognac, the difference in price
being merely a question of age and vintage.
WHISKY—All our Whisky is of excellent
quality and of greater age than most brand-
in the market. The SCOTCH WHISKY
marked "E" is universally popular, and is
pronounced by the best local connoisseurs
to be superior to any other brand in the
Hongkong market.We only guarantee our Wines and Spirits to
be genuine when bought direct from us in the
Colony or from our authorized Agents at the
Coast Ports.A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.
Hongkong, 8th December, 1897. [7]

MARRIAGE.

On the 28th instant, at St. John's Cathedral,
by the Rev. R. H. Cobbold, ALFRED NORTON
HUXE to KATE, daughter of the Rev. Alexander
Fraser, Oban, Scotland. [182]

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1898.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

At last, after many disappointments, the
height of our ambition is attained and the
cup of our happiness is full, the recognition
of merit and the reward of patient waiting
will now be ours—we have been taken for
the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank! We
thought it would come to that some day;
it was a long time coming, and when we
were mistaken for nothing more remuner-
ative than Norwegian Consulates and
Colonial Secretariats we felt weary at
heart with hoping against hope. But now
is the winter of our discontent made
glorious summer by this P.M.G.'s! The
Post Office has at length paid tribute to
our sterling worth by giving us the Bank's
mail. The Hongkong Telegraph has
hitherto worked purely for love of work,
but has done good in the world and de-
serves recompense. The Bank can easily
afford to let us keep a little of the mis-
directed wealth, we need it, for the whole
paper, plant, goodwill and everything only
fetched \$25,000 at auction three years
ago.A little nonsense now and then
is relished by the wisest men.We are wise enough to relish the non-
sense of the Post Office, its eccentricities
and humours forming the ideal of Gilbert's
Mikado, "a source of innocent merriment."
Life would not be worth living without an
occasional bit of fun, and though it may
sometimes be rather hard on the objects of
it, they only have themselves to blame;
and really we try to let them off lightly.
But the P.M.G. and his unconscionable
colleagues have simply "superbstituted them-
selves," as Mrs. Malaprop would say. Here was
our overworked "scissors and paste"
artist yesterday, up to his neck in news-
papers from San Francisco, Vancouver,
Singapore, India, Ceylon, Saigon, Tonkin,
Manila, Shanghai, Japan, and a few other
places, when the Post Office delivery-man
dumped on his desk a bundle
of Tientsin papers—seven altogether.
One newspaper is published in Tientsin,
and that is weekly; so our "Snip"
murmured casually "They must be
having a stiff winter in Tientsin!"
—snowed up for seven weeks at a stretch!"
Then he methodically relegated Tientsin to
its proper place at the outside edge of
his mountain of papers, and went on cut-
ting chunks from the *Empress* mail without
further thought, for our own Tientsin
correspondent is good enough if there is
any news there, and the papers can wait.
To-day, coming to look at the Tientsin
mail, he finds copies of a single day's
issue, addressed to various people in
Hongkong, including one only for this
office, two for the Bank, two for our com-
temporaries, one for the I. M. Customs
and one for Kelly and Walsh. Now, if
the Post Office could only contrive to
similarly misdeliver at this office a con-
signments of specie for the Bank, and/or
ditto Customs revenue receipts, we
wouldn't complain. Somebody else might.The news we publish to-day, that the
Chinese are resuming hostilities at Kiao-chow, is somewhat surprising. It would
hardly seem credible that even such utter
imbecilities as Chinese would be capable of
such suicidal folly as to make ambuscades
and assassinate German soldiers when
peace has just been restored at such great
cost; especially when Prince Henry of
Prussia is on his way out with several
shipsloads of "mailed fists" for their spe-
cial edification. If he had filled up his
ships with coal instead of gas, by the way,
the *Geyser* would not have had to put back
to Peking. This trifling incident of the
voyage is a significant illustration of the
helplessness of small-bunkered warships
without coaling-stations, and another ar-
gument in favour of such vessels as the
Powerful, with 3,000 tons-bunker capacity.
The *Geyser* is an unarmoured 20-knot
cruiser of 4,000 tons, built in 1891. Her
coal capacity is not stated in Brassey's
Naval Annual.It is now quite certain that the French
have not done anything which would war-
rant the scare about annexing Hainan.
They assembled some ships there, when
the rumours were rife about Britain
annexing part of Kwangtung, or Chusan,
or Tientsin; and if Britain had made a
"grab," France would in all probability
have then taken Hainan as a set-off. It
would be useful from a strategic point of
view to have a good naval port there; a
commanding the approaches to Tonkin,
and convenient for raids on Hongkong in
the event of war; but Hainan itself has no
very good harbour. There is a much
better one, a splendid harbour in fact, on
the mainland, nearly opposite Hainan.
The island itself would not be worth
having, and would be one of the most dif-
ficult bits of territory in the whole world
to manage. Still, considerations of that
sort did not prevent the annexation of
Madagascar, and Hainan may be taken
some day.At present Frenchmen have enough to
attend to at home. The revelation of
rottenness arising out of the Dreyfus case
are enough to make one despair of France
as a nation. The two factions, one at-
tacking Dreyfus and his friends, and the
other trying to divert the accusations to
EXTERNAZ and his friends, include almost
the whole of the upper ranks of the
army; and the allegations on both sides
are of such a shocking nature that they
surely cannot have been formulated with-
out reason. It would appear that the
army administration is based purely on
plunder; and putting this aside by
with the Panama and Legion of Honour
scandals, it seems as though France
is managed mainly for the benefit of
unscrupulous men in high positions, who
direct the affairs of their departments
with a single eye to what they can make
for themselves by dishonesty of all kinds.
How the country survives is a mystery.The season of short water supply is now
upon us; or rather, it would be more
exact to say the season in which we have
frequently run short of water in past years.
It may be news to our new Director of
Public Works that, since the completion
of the splendid waterworks at Tiatum,
Hongkong has several times been face to
face with a water famine, and is not yet
very far removed from the possibility of a
repetition. The enlargements of the
storage capacity are very satisfactory as
far as they go, but the population is
increasing all the time, and Hongkong
has an unusually wasteful population. On
the seriousness of trivial waste, a cor-
respondent of *Indian Engineering*, signing
himself "Fellow of the Sanitary Institute,"
writes:—Last summer I was at a large boarding house
in Brighton and noticed that four of the lavatory
taps were running continuously as the screw
down cocks did not sit properly. I spoke to the
landlord and gave him professional advice gratis,
stating that either a new leather washer was
wanted or, perhaps, the seat required to be filed
a little, that a plumber could do the whole four
cocks in a day. To my surprise the landlord
said that the house was not his own, that he had
written to the owner some days ago, and he
didn't see why he should pay the plumber. I
then made a few rough calculations to the
following effect:—Suppose that the sectional
area of the tap was 1/16th of a square inch,
that the supply system was 36 feet above the
tap, and allowing 50 per cent. for frictional
resistances due to bends, branch pipes, etc., the
loss from one tap was probably 5,000 gallons per
day of 24 hours, or for the four taps 20,000
gallons per diem. A good screw down cock with
labour of fitting complete does not cost more
than 7s. When I went to Austerly I put in new
cocks everywhere, also three up-to-date water
closets with the newest pattern of water waste
discharge, yet I was charged the same rate by the
water company as though I had wasted their
substance in riotous living.

ARRIVAL OF H.M.S. "ALACRITY"

BRITISH WARSHIPS AT CHUSAN.

H.M.S. *Alacrity*, which left Hongkong on the
16th inst. for Shanghai, conveying the "des-
troysers" *Hart* and *Hawey*, returned to port
to-day. She had a lot of rough weather on
the voyage north but the "destroyers" again
proved themselves weatherly little vessels. The
Alacrity stopped at Chusan, where she parted
with her charges. A *Telegraph* reporter boarded
the despatch vessel on her arrival and was
informed that the only piece of news the
officers had was that H.M.S. *Centurion* and
Immortalite were at Chusan on Sunday
last and that the *Algerine* came down to
Chusan from Shanghai on Monday with
mail. "We heard," said one officer, "that
some of our ships were at Cebu, but no one
knows anything for a certainty—not even the
flagship's officers. We were off again on Tues-
day last but had little chance of hearing any-
thing. No, we have not seen any of the foreign
fleet since we last left Hongkong. The *Alacrity*
is remaining with the *Algerine* at Chusan but
nobody knows how long the ships are likely to
stay there."

TELEGRAMS.

("HONGKONG TELEGRAPH SPECIAL")
RENEWED FIGHTING
AT KIAOCHOW.GERMANS KILLED BY
AMBUSCADES.A CHANCE FOR PRINCE HENRY'S
"MAILED FIST."

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

SHANGHAI, January 28th.
It is reported that the Chinese about
Kiaochow are reopening hostilities, and
that a hundred Chinese soldiers lay in
ambush and killed a German sentry who
was on outpost duty. Afterwards, three
other German soldiers, going the rounds
and relieving sentries, were unexpectedly
attacked and killed, after a vigorous
struggle in self-defence which resulted in
the deaths of twelve natives. Kiaochow
is intensely agitated in consequence.

REUTER'S MESSAGES.

PROGRESS OF THE GERMAN
SQUADRON.LONDON, January 26th.
The German cruiser *Geyser*, accompanying
Prince Henry of Prussia on the voyage to
China, has returned to Peking for coal.SEIZURE OF ARMS IN THE GULF
OF OMAN.H.M.S. *Lapwing* has seized the steamer
Beluchistan off Muscat whilst attempting to
land arms and munitions. The Consul has
confiscated the cargo.THE RIFLE BRIGADE TO STOP
AT MALTA.The Rifle Brigade, on its way home from
Singapore, has been ordered to land at Malta.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The buying rate for sovereigns is \$10.51 per £.

The French mail steamer *Natal* left Saigon this
morning for this port.AMONG the passengers who arrived from home
by the *Borneo* to-day, were Bishop and Mrs.
Burdon.A COOLIE was to-day sent to gaol for six weeks
for the theft of a bag of sugar from a Praya
West godown.FOX cutting trees on Government land at Hung-
ham a tattered and dirty looking coolie was to-
day sent to gaol for fourteen days.LT. T. D. JACKSON, son of the popular manager
of the H.K. Bank, arrived here this morning by
the P. & O. *Borneo*, to join the Royal Lancasters.By the P. & O. steamer *Borneo*, which arrived
to-day from London, a number of military of-
ficers were passengers. The *Borneo* also brought
details totalling 144 men for the Royal Artillery
and Royal Eng. regts.A CRICKET match will be played at the Happy
Valley between the "Crabengower" Cricket
Club and the "Harmonie" Cricket Club to-
morrow commencing at 3 p.m. sharp. Players
are requested to be punctual.Two women who had had a quarrel yesterday
proceeded to settle the matter with nature's
weapons—finger nails—in this instance—and when
one of them had her face made like a railway
man, the police appeared on the scene. To-day
the belligerents were fined \$2 each.A FETTERED old Chinese barber who has been
disputing for some time past charged one of
his boon companions to-day with having dragged
him and stolen \$100 from him. The evidence
was decidedly "fishy" and after hearing a little
of it Mr. Wodehouse discharged the defendant.THE *Empress of India* which arrived here yester-
day, encountered very rough weather during
the voyage and on one day only 105 knots were
made. The forward part of her upper work,
bridge, etc., have been damaged. She left Van-
couver one day late, and lost another day on the
voyage.A CRICKET MATCH will be played to-morrow
between a Club XI and a Naval XI. The follow-
ing will play for the Club:—Dr. Atkinson
(Capt.), F. Lammer, G. A. Woodcock, H. Wy-
ford, J. F. Noble, F. H. Kow, L. S. Craw, A.
Anderson, K. W. Mounsey, D. Wood, Lt.
Johnson.TO-DAY being the seventh of the Chinese New
Year we were treated to another despatching
of crackers. The fun began at about 1 a.m.
and it was kept up ashore and aloft
through the day with an enthusiasm that speaks
volumes for Chinese earnestness, but we don't
see it from that point of view by any means.THE Royal Hongkong Yacht Club will hold a
race for Mr. Mitchell's yacht to-morrow. The
course will be from Police Pier, Kowloon, round
Meyer's E. Buoy, Channel Rocks, Kowloon
Rock, Meyer's E. Buoy, and Channel Rocks, all
to port; to miles. Start at 2 p.m. Handicap will
be posted up at the V.R.C. at noon to-morrow.THE Band of the K. O. L. Regiment will play
the following programme at the Officers' Mess
this evening, commencing at 8 o'clock:—
March—"Pride of the March" (A. Hall), Mendelssohn
Overture—"The Kites" (G. S. S.), Mendelssohn
Selection—"Gavotte de Balcon" (G. S. S.), Mendelssohn
VAM Selection—"Les Struts" (A. Hall), Mendelssohn
Selection—"The Lost Chord" (A. Hall), Mendelssohn
Selection—"Les Cloches de Corneville" (A. Hall), Mendelssohn
Good Night the Queen.THE Medical Officer of Health reports that
during the present month there have been thirty-
seven cases of small-pox in the centre of the
city, six having come from Wan-chai. In view
of this two free Vaccination Stations are to be
opened, one in No. 3 district and one at Wan-
chai. A free station for others than Chinese
will be opened at the Government Civil Hospital.THE Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial
and Nethercole Hospitals begs to acknowledge
with thanks the following donation to the
funds of the Hospitals:—

Pink Gold\$300
Roset Metal Gold100
Sing Woo Co.100
Yan Woo Co.50
Frang Fish Gold30
Frang Wa Chih10
Lo Cheung Ip5

The Manila sailor charged with assaulting a
countryman by cutting his head, was brought
up on remand at the Magistrate to-day. Con-
stantine Johnson told the Magistrate that he took
complaint to the Hospital on a Friday night,
while complainant said that it was on Thursday
night. No direct evidence was obtainable and
defendant was bound over in his own recog-
nizance to keep the peace for six months. In-
spector Gilles informed his Worship that the
quarrel between Manila and Spanish sailors
when gambling ashore gave the police much
trouble and only a couple of nights ago, one
man was seriously stabbed and the culprit was
still at large.HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT
AND AGENCY CO., LTD.The shareholders in this company held their
ninth ordinary meeting at the offices, Victoria
Buildings at noon to-day. The Hon. J. J. Bel-
l-Irving presided and there were also present Hon.
C. P. Chater, A. J. Raymond, N. A. Sles, D.
Gubbay, A. Haupt, and Lee Sing (directors) A.
Shelton Hooper (secretary) Messrs. C. S. Sharp,
T. I. Rose, J. C. dos Remedios, R. K. Leigh,
J. H. Cox, N. J. Ede, F. Henderson, G. M. Bain,
J. N. Goldman, P. Jordan, S. A. Sth.The Chairman said—Gentlemen, I propose,
with your permission, to take the Reports and
Accounts, which have been in your hands for
some days, as read. On reference to the ac-
counts, you will observe that the gross profits
earned for the year under review amounted to
\$352,707.24 as against \$243,379.43 for the
previous year. Our Rent account shows a
substantial increase, whilst Commission account
and the Profit arising from sales of Properties
give an improved return on the figures appear-
ing in previous reports. Interest account
necessarily has decreased on account of the large
reduction in the amount invested in Mortgage
and the interest paid on the increased sum
standing at Loans Payable. The total amount
advanced on Mortgages, you will observe,
is about two lacs less than in the
former year, whilst our investments in
Properties are increased by over three lacs.
The profits for the past year were some-
what reduced by the necessarily increased ex-
penditure in repairs to property and fire insur-
ance premium, the former having increased from
about \$8,000 to \$12,000 and the latter from
\$4,400 to \$5,800. Our total assets now amount
to \$2,000,000, being about ten lacs in excess
of our paid up Capital and Reserve Fund, and
it is on this difference that the interest is pay-
able by us as shown in the Profit and Loss ac-
count. Out of the sum of 24 lacs invested in
property, eight to nine lacs represent the value
of land which is being developed, and as I stated
to you last year, I consequently yield no return
for the time being; a large portion of this class
of property is land reclaimed and in course of
reclamation, and some of it is in a sufficiently
advanced state to allow buildings to be erected
thereon almost immediately, plans for which are
now in course of preparation, and on completion
of the buildings, our revenue from the rents will
be largely increased. The principal purchases
during the past year, have been in land situate
in the neighbourhood of Bowen Road and
Kennedy Road, where we are erecting European
houses of class for which there is much enquiry,
and we have no doubt, will yield a satisfactory
return. We have also acquired land from the
Government in Tinian where we will be
building Chinese houses and shops, for which there
is a demand in that locality. The whole of the
Company's buildings are in a good condition and
satisfactorily rented, the returns from which have
recently increased and your Directors look
forward to a further increasing revenue therefrom.
Before leaving the matter of the investment in
property, I would particularly beg to draw
your attention to the fact that it must be a
few years before our development is complete, and
therefore our profit by selling of the interest
and Crown Rent on same whilst the properties
themselves are unyielding, must necessarily be
curtailed, and the policy adopted by your Direc-
tors of carrying forward the substantial sum we
do instead of dividing it, will we hope and believe
meet with your approval. Having already,
as mentioned a large sum invested in undevel-
oped properties, it is not at present the intention
of your Directors to acquire a further interest in
properties wholly undeveloped unless they are
obtainable on most favourable terms. Our
mortgages, as far as the opinion of your
Directors, most satisfactory manner, and in
many cases the margins have been increased by
the mortgages against any risk on our part to
reduce the advances.There being no question from the meeting the
Chairman proposed the adoption of the report.
Mr. C. S. Sharp seconded. He had, he said,
listened with a great deal of interest to the
remarks of the Chairman and he was very glad
to see them going in more for what he might
call legitimate business—property-owning in-
stead of money-lending. He would like to see
a further decrease made in the mortgages and
a corresponding increase in their investment in
property. Some might feel disappointed that
their business had not been more progressive,
but there was a steady increase in the rents for
1897 over those of the preceding year. There
was also a large sum invested in property that
was not revenue-bearing, and they could rest
with a sure and certain hope for the future
regarding these properties. Their portion of the
Reclamation ground was so advanced as to
allow building, and there was also their fine
property in the neighbourhood of Bowen and
Kennedy Road. He thought that property
here had a bright future. There was an increas-
ing demand for houses and marked activity in
building was seen everywhere. The colony
was about to commence on an era of new
prosperity in which this company with its sound
investments and under able direction should
reap a bright harvest in the future.The motion was then carried.
The appointment of Messrs. A. J. Raymond,
D. Gubbay and A. Haupt as directors were con-
firmed on the motion of Messrs. Ede and Leigh
and Messrs. N. A. Sles and D. Gubbay were
re-elected to the board on the motion of Messrs.
Rose and Cox.Messrs. Murray Bain and Goodman proposed
the re-election of the auditors, Messrs. F. Hen-
derson and A. Contts. This was also carried.
The Chairman announced that dividend war-
rants would be ready to-morrow and that they
would be posted to those shareholders outside
the colony where the addresses were known.

WEST POINT BUILDING CO., LTD.

The ninth ordinary meeting of shareholders
in the above company was held at 11.30 a.m.
to-day at the offices, Victoria Buildings. The
Hon. C. P. Chater presided and there were also
present Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, A. J. Raymond,
C. S. Sharp (Directors), A. Shelton Hooper
(Secretary), N. J. Ede, T. I. Rose, J. N. Goode-
man, Paul Jordan, R. C. Leigh, J. C. dos Remed-
ios, K. McK. Foss, and M. S. Sassoon and
Shewan.The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, I will, with
your permission, take the Report and Accounts
as read. In presenting these, your Directors
are pleased to be able to point out that the
Balance at Credit of Profit and Loss account has
increased to \$17,000.00 as against \$13,000.10 in
the previous year, thereby enabling them to
recommend a Dividend of \$1.50 per share, which
is an increase of 25 cents per share over last
year, a result which you, no doubt, will deem
satisfactory. The Rent Account has increased
from \$17,863.21 to \$30,667.71 and we have saved
about \$800 in interest and \$500 in repairs, but
there has been an increase of \$500 in Insurance.
The whole of the property is in good condition,
and we trust before long the property may be
entirely occupied. Should any Shareholder wish
for any further information, I shall be glad to
answer any questions which may be put.Mr. N. J. Ede: About how many houses have
we now?The Chairman: We have 93 houses; 71 are
wholly occupied and we are getting 2,000 per
month. The remaining 22 are partially occu-
pied and there are 30 vacant floors. There are
no whole houses unless we have 26 floors which
if occupied would return \$300 per month.Mr. Shewan: I second the motion for the
adoption of the report. I am my landlord is on
the board of directors. He has just increased
my rent to 10 per cent. No doubt he will advise
the board to do the same with their property.
(Laughter.)The motion was unanimously carried.
The confirmation of Mr. Raymond's appoint-
ment to the board was agreed to on the motion
of Messrs. Rose and Rose.Messrs. Chater and Bell-Irving were re-elected
directors, and Mr. F. Henderson was again
elected auditor.

This concluded the business.

KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING
CO., LTD.The shareholders of the above company held
their ninth ordinary meeting at the offices,
Victoria Buildings, at 3 p.m. to-day. Mr. F.
Henderson presided and there were also present
Messrs. E. J. Hughes, J. Goodman, J. H. Cox
(directors), A. Shelton Hooper (secretary),
Paul Jordan, E. George, H. Holmes, and M. S.
Nethercole.The Chairman said there was really very little
for him to say regarding the report before the
meeting. The business in Kowloon Terrace had
been fully completed throughout the year and
those in Canton Villas had been occupied since
their completion. As the neighbourhood seemed
such a popular one it warranted the hope that
this state of things would long continue. The
houses had been kept in proper repair without
any extraordinary expense being incurred. With
respect to the erection of the three houses in
Canton Villas, the Company's work on the site
must now be considered as complete. The
formation of the land did not admit of any
further extension. A dividend of \$1 had been
declared as against \$0.50 cents last year. He
mentioned that the rents from Canton Villas
were quite equal to expectations when they
invested the balance of the money for those
properties.Mr. F. Holmes said he queried the statement
regarding the further development of the prop-
erty referred to. It was an open question and
he thought the property would be much further
opened up in future years.The Chairman said he only referred to the
present condition of things. If it so happened
that the British Government obtained a scien-
tific frontier for Kowloon they might see some
wonderful developments. That could not be
taken into account at present.Mr. Holmes seconded the adoption of the
report and it was carried.On the motions of Messrs. E. J. Hughes and
Holmes, Messrs. E. J. Hughes and J. H. Cox
were re-elected directors and Messrs. T.
Arnold and W. H. Gaskell, the retiring auditors,
were re-elected.Dividend warrants will be ready at the office
to-morrow.

HONGKONG "ODD VOLUMES"

FAREWELL TO H. E. SIR W. ROBINSON.

There was a large gathering of the Odd Vol-
umes and their friends this afternoon, to witness
the presentation of a farewell address to H. E.
the Governor, Sir William Robinson, G.C.M

HINDRANCES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE IN KWANG-TUNG AND KWANGSI.

(By our Special Correspondent)

In volume 1 of "Decennial Reports on the Trade, Navigation, Industries etc., of the Ports opened to Foreign Commerce in China and Corea" (1888-9, Edition, page 5 and 9) M. Le Rocher, the Commissioner at Canton in 1891, in his very interesting report on Kwangtung province in the course of his remarks on the future, as then discernible, of the port and district of Canton says—"It is not difficult to foresee that the commercial prosperity of the district will mainly depend on the development of the West River as a trade route. This route is the natural channel for the interior commerce of the southern portion of the Empire; but its advantages have, so far been neutralized by heavy and harassing taxation. This policy is resisted by the liberal routes now being pushed by the French through Tonkin, and, in a less degree probably, the projected lines through Burma, will infallibly divert from Kwangtung province a large portion of the inter-provincial traffic which it now controls, and deprive it of any share in the trade that may result from the development of Kwangsi, Yunnan, and Kweichow. M. Le Rocher then mentions the projected railway from Peking to Nanchang-fu as a "catharsis." "It would be sufficient, for the present, at least, to do away with the custom of *likin* stations. If the West River is to adopt a system of *likin*, a uniform taxation of goods once for all—such, for instance, as has worked so successfully in the case of foreign opium." In another part of his elaborate report the Commissioner says, "The West River (or Canton) Delta remains the highway of its (Canton's) commerce. Within the limits of the Delta the choice of routes is constantly liable to be determined by the devices of *hottel* tax collectors, the rivalry between steamers and junk, and other causes; but these fluctuations are, as a rule, temporary, and do not necessarily affect the volume or course of trade." It should be borne in mind that these opinions of the Commissioner of Customs at Canton were formed in 1891 before there was any ground for hoping that the West River would be thrown open to the commerce of all nations and at a time, too, when the Commissioner of Customs actually deprecated the early opening of Wuchow as a Treaty Port. And I say he deprecated it adversely for he states in his decennial report dated Canton 31st December 1891, "It has been proposed to construct a railway from Peking to Nanchang-fu, and again, to make Wuchow a Treaty Port." "It is doubtful whether either of these schemes is of pressing importance." The importance of opening the West River is, strange to say, admitted by the Commissioner, who says "the commercial prosperity of the district will mainly depend on the development of the West River as a trade route" and yet although he realized this he submitted that the opening of the river to foreign trade and residence, with the extension of the operation of the beneficial *likin* system which was then in vogue, was not a matter of pressing importance. That it was a matter of great importance, I am glad to be able to report, shown by the large volume of the trade done by foreigners and Chinese at Wuchow during the first six months of its existence as a treaty port and by the ever-increasing demand for Transit Passes both for imported goods and native produce intended for export to foreign countries. The perseverance of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, a cosmopolitan body in its agitation for the opening of this waterway and the interior commerce of the southern portion of the Empire, is a fact which M. Le Rocher rightly terms it, and the pressure brought to bear on the Central Government to induce it to consent to the reasonable demands of the British Government are a ready more than justified by the splendid results of the first six months work at Wuchow, and I make bold to assert that the Customs returns for the six months ending 31st December, 1897 will in the near future fully demonstrate this.

[The increase at Wuchow for the six months exceeds 75,000,000 and the trade of the port has grown more rapidly and shown more signs of vitality than has been noticeable in any newly opened port in China.] But what has all this to do with the hindrances to trade as mentioned in the first part of this report? I will now explain. In the second paragraph of the list of hindrances to trade I stated that the Steamboat Co.'s vessels and some Chinese steamers are compelled to run about 40 to 50 miles further to reach Samshui, on the West River, than the steamers owned by the Ping On Company, a purely Chinese concern, in which various officials connected and controlling the *likin* Bureau are known to be interested; and in paragraph 3, I asserted that the Ping On Company has a monopoly of the trade in freight and passenger trade between Canton and the towns situated on the banks of and near the creeks which form the shortest route through the Delta to Kanchow and Samshui. Now, it is manifestly unfair, and it is generally admitted to be an obstacle to the development of trade, to have any portion of a given trade, much less the major portion of it, monopolized by one company or one clique, leaving the competitors for others who may be disposed and be legally entitled to take part in it. That is had enough in all conscience, but the situation assumes a grave aspect when it is found that the monopolists are high officials of the Government whose duty it is to foster trade and thereby enhance the revenue of the State or the provinces. Several lines of small cargo and passenger steamers (including two steamers owned by the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company) are trading between Canton and Wuchow, and one of these lines is known as the "Ping On" Company, of which one Wong Chuen Sin, the Chief of the *likin* Bureau at Canton, is a large shareholder. When the West River was opened to foreign trade on the 4th June last it was decided by the properly constituted foreign and native authorities that steamers proceeding to the West River from Canton should, in accordance with the treaty of February 4th, 1897, take a certain route. The route laid down and followed ever since that date by the Steamboat Co.'s steamers is just about 200 miles in length from Canton to Samshui and in navigating this course they steer mainly in two directions representing, roughly, on the chart two sides of a triangle. The Ping On Company's vessels, which usually have in tow large boats containing about 200 to 300 passengers, do not follow this route, but take a short-cut through the Delta, i.e. they run across the base of the triangle formed by the foreign-owned vessels. The course is only about 50 miles by one route and 35 miles by another channel, and it is therefore clear that they have, irrespective of a large and ever-increasing passenger trade with the numerous towns and cities along their route, a great advantage over their rivals both in time and fuel consumed on *voyage*. It may be argued that the Chinese authorities have a perfect right to allow vessels under the Chinese flag to run wherever they please; that foreign vessels are rightly prevented from trading at or carrying passengers to other than the ports and places mentioned in the Treaty and Regulations of Trade on the West River. And the fact of

foreign vessels being allowed to call only at the treaty ports in China and Japan may be cited as justification for the authorities declining to permit—as they do decline—the Steamboat Co.'s vessels using the short-cut routes to Samshui. That would be reasonable enough, perhaps, if the intention was to protect the native shipping industry and if the Regulations now in force were final on the point. It happens, however, that the policy of the native authorities will not stand the test of careful scrutiny, that their main object is to create a monopoly in favour of Mr. Wong's Ping On Company, and it is, moreover, a fact that the Regulations now in force were never intended to be final as regards the course across the Delta. The Regulations are dated Canton, August, 1897, and conclude with the following additional article:—

"The above Regulations and Rules are provisional for a year and may be altered, amended, or annulled as experience and local requirements may dictate."

Notwithstanding this very clearly worded article and courteous application for permission to use the short-cut route to Samshui the Chinese authorities refuse to budge one inch and not only prevent foreign vessels from using the shortest route but have even seized launches belonging to Mr. Shi Ming Kuk and others, flying the Chinese flag, while in the lawful pursuit of their business as Chinese vessels. On one occasion, recently, the *Lekin* yachts seized one of the Wong Kees Co.'s vessels, and detained her several days because she was taking the shortest route to Samshui. The great object of the authorities is to protect the Ping On monopoly and, as I understand it, to induce the belief in the native mind that to travel quickly and safely they must use the Ping On's boats. I am reliably informed that urgent representations will shortly be made to the proper authorities with a view to obtaining for all vessels trading between Canton and West River ports the right to use the shortest routes across the Delta. There would seem to be no need to wait until August (the completion of one year) for amendment of the Regulations in this connection for it is evident from the wording of the treaty that the provisional Regulations should have been ready (as a matter of fact they were not ready) as soon as the port was opened, i.e. on the 4th June, and that therefore one year will have elapsed long before August. It is to be hoped that the native authorities will be able to perceive the error of their ways (if they are not quite dead to reason and utterly devoid of common sense) in the near future; avoid the inevitable with a good grace and thereby in a small measure make amends for the wrongs they have done to foreigners and to Chinese launch and passenger boat owners that have had the misfortune to incur the displeasure of the all-powerful Ping On monopolists and their backers. One would have thought that a man like Mr. Wong would have been well satisfied with the profits accruing to him from his connection with the *Lekin* Office; but there is, of course, no accounting for the actions of persons, who, however well off, are ever thirsting for more. Like the diplomatist they will go to great lengths to quench their thirst and the more it is quenched the greater, the more insatiable their thirst becomes. But to return to our subject. The treatment of the foreign-owned and other lines is far from what it should be. In order that trade may develop and have free course for expansion this monopoly should be quickly and firmly suppressed. All the foreigners want is a fair field and no favour and that is just what he hasn't got yet on the West River. The field is fair enough, but the favours are mischievous.

AMERICAN AND CANADIAN MAIL NEWS.

JOHANNESBURG, December 24th. President Kruger, in the course of a speech at Krugeter, on Tuesday, dwelt on the danger of a so-called constitutional method of keeping out of Mr. Rhodes' clutches Delagoa Bay, which the President characterized as "the Transvaal's only gateway to the sea."

MELBOURNE, December 25th. The Government of New South Wales is arranging to supply frozen meat to the Russian authorities at Vladivostok.

MADRID, December 25th. To-day the *Impartial* urged that in view of the character of the reply of United States Minister Woodford to the note of the Spanish Government in answer to the first communication of the American Government through him, it is necessary to increase the Spanish fleet, as against the eventuality of a conflict with the United States.

EL HERALDO says:—"The encroachments of the United States upon the internal policy of Spain have become intolerable and must be resisted energetically. The situation is difficult, but at whatever cost the Government ought to put an end to such a shameful state of affairs for the sake of the city of Spain."

LONDON, December 27th. According to advices from Tokyo, Japan has offered to assist the officers at Peking in drilling the Chinese army, and to consent to a postponement of the war indemnity. Many of the officers and Peking officials favour the proposal.

The *Peking* correspondent of the *Times* says:—"The Government reserves to put the like under foreign control as security for the loan proposed by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and asserts that unless the loan is procurable without such conditions, arrangements will be made for a Russian guaranteed 4 per cent loan of 100,000,000 roubles, to be issued at 93 net. The security will be the land tax, which would remain under Chinese administration."

China in return would give Russia a monopoly of the Great Wall, open a port at the terminus of the Transiberian Railway and would grant that Russia should succeed in Sir Robert Hart as Director of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs. If these conditions should be permitted British trade interests would suffer severely.

MADRID, December 27th. The insurgent Chief Rivera has arrived at Cadix from Cuba. He will be incarcerated in a fortress. In an interview Rivera said he believed that nothing would induce the Cubans to cease fighting before they attained their independence.

NEW YORK, December 28th. In an interview with the *World*, Wu Ting Fang, the Chinese Minister to the United States, explains the Eastern situation:—"What has China done," he asked by way of preface, "that she should be divided up and parcelled out among the powers? What's her offence against the nations or against civilization? Germany is incensed, we are told, because two of her subjects have been murdered. If this is true, my Government will make all the reparation in its power. It never related to do that. Never having returned there is no reason for German ships of war to seize Chinese territory. They talk of disembarking China. Why do they not partition Turkey? Everybody knows she was long the scourge of Europe and time and again made bloody conquests, some of which she still holds. On the other hand the Chinese kept well within her own territory, and never disturbed the peace of Europe. As for Russia, I have no notion that she intends to take any of our territory without our consent. Russia may get concessions, but I do not think that means that we will be divided up and handed around like sugar."

NOT AND A. CALENDAR.

Meteorological means based on ten years' observations to 1893.

Barometer	30.105
Thermometer	59.4
Humidity	74.0
Rainfall	1.67

TO-DAY.	WEATHER REPORT.	On date at 10 a.m.	On date at 4 p.m.
Barometer	30.101	30.31	
Thermometer	59	65	
Humidity	18	16	
Rainfall			

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1715—Peter the Great died.	1745—Battle of Alwalah; Sikh loss 6,000.
1864—Fictitious attack on the Danzig big Calce, near Hongkong.	1871—Suicide of Paris after a siege of 131 days.
1878—The 74th Highlanders arrived in Hongkong.	

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ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

MR. MITCHELL'S PRIZES.

Saturday Jan 29th 1898.	Starting at 2 p.m.
Cygnus Capt. Hon. H. Lambton	1st
Edith Mr. A. Denison	2nd
Maid Marian Mr. J. Hastings	3rd
Chimble Mr. C. A. Tomes	4th
Meteor Mr. C. H. Kist	5th
Phoebe Mr. F. H. May	6th
Aetna Mr. H. E. Pollock	7th
Sylph Mr. Royal Engineer	8th
Princess Mr. J. McKie	9th
Edith Mr. C. O. Wilkinson	10th
Edith Mr. Royal Engineer	11th
Dart Dr. Clarke	12th
Diary Mr. W. Harrison	13th
Seabreeze Capt. Long	14th
Albatross Mr. Royal Engineer	15th

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High water—Morning 6.45 a.m.	High water—Evening 6.45 p.m.
Low water—Morning 1.15 a.m.	Low water—Evening 1.15 p.m.</

